

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Digital mining claim density map for Federal lands in the Pacific Northwest

by

Harry W. Campbell¹ and Paul C. Hyndman¹

Open-File Report 96-737

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¹ U.S. Geological Survey, Spokane, WA 99201

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge Cheryl Laudenbach, Denver Service Center, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for providing assistance in obtaining digital mining claim recordation data and digital data codes for the BLM Mining Claim Recordation System database.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a digital map and data files generated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide digital spatial mining claim information for Federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. Mining claim data is earth science information deemed to be relevant to the assessment of historic, current, and future ecological, economic, and social systems. The digital maps and data files that are available in this report are suitable for geographic information system (GIS)-based regional assessments.

Open-File Report OFR 96-736 summarizes the methodology and GIS techniques that were used to produce the mining claim density map of the Pacific Northwest. Appendix A. of this report lists the attribute data for the ARC/INFO mining claim density GIS coverage. Appendix B. provides the formal GIS metadata.

Extent and scope

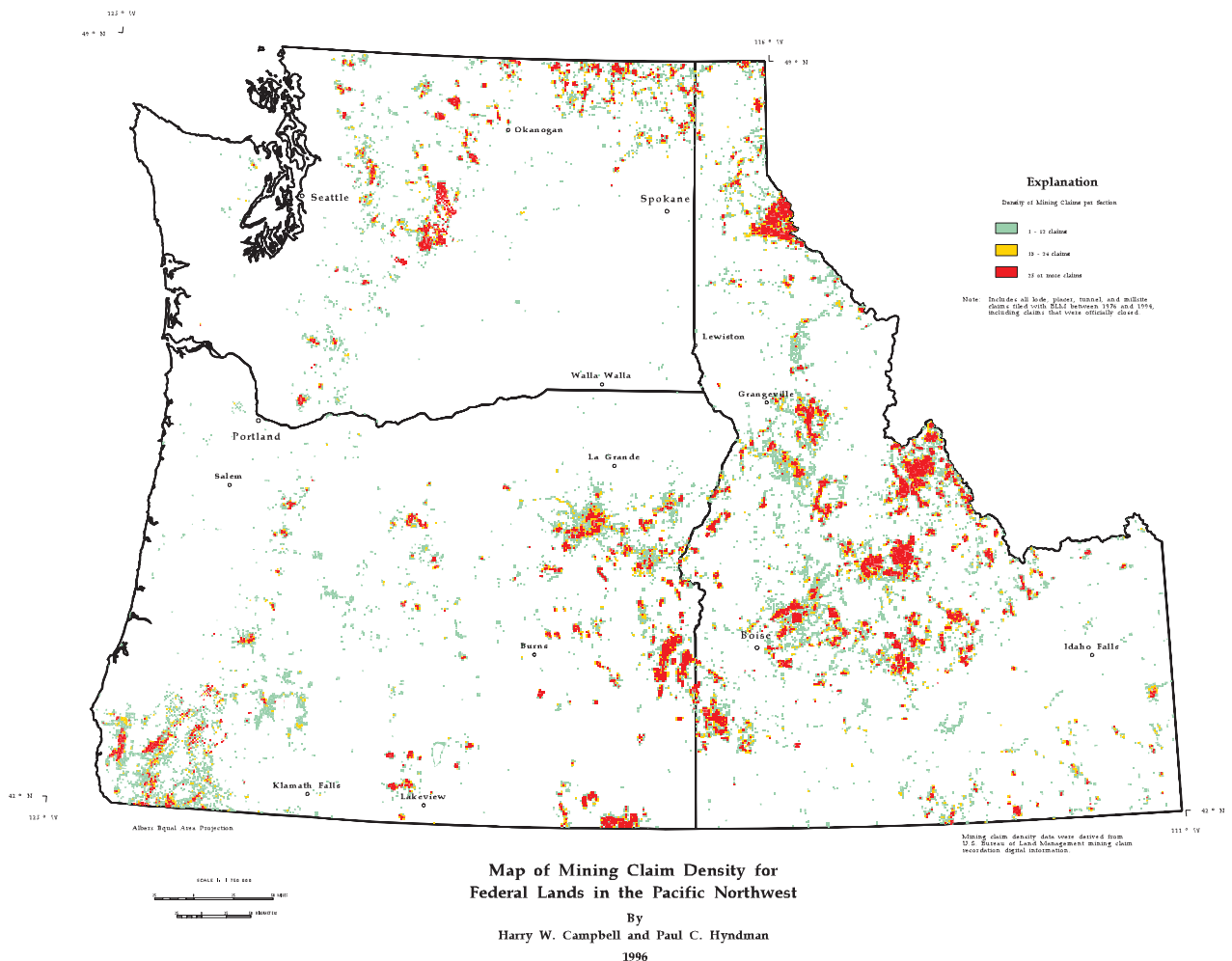
Digital mining claim data in this report are available for Federal lands in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Mining claim data were obtained from the BLM Mining Claim Recordation System (MCRS) database. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), all unpatented mining claims, mill, and tunnel sites are required to be recorded in the appropriate BLM state office. BLM maintains a cumulative computer listing of mining claims in the MCRS database with locations given by township, range, and section. The digital mining claim data used to prepare this report were acquired from BLM in September 1994. Data are presented on a base that is suitable for compilation at a scale of 1:100,000 or smaller. Additional potentially useful information is available in the BLM digital mining claim database, but is not included in the digital products presently being released.

U.S. Geological Survey involvement

As a result of the cessation of funding of the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) by the Congress effective the first quarter of 1996, certain functions and data were transferred to the USGS. This report releases mining and mineral-related data collected by USBM geologists before the USBM closure. The authors of this report processed the data for this mining claim density map as USBM geologists and are presently employees of the U.S. Geological Survey.

DATA SOURCES, PROCESSING, AND ACCURACY

The starting points for the mining claim density map of the Pacific Northwest were state-wide ARC/INFO Public Land Survey System (PLSS) digital files for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington that were digitized from 1:100,000-scale or larger topographic maps. Mining claim data were obtained as ASCII text files from the BLM Denver Service Center on 9-track magnetic tapes. Mining claims were totaled for each section (square mile) by using computer procedures



developed specifically for this purpose (See Campbell, 1996). Mining claim totals per section were imported from ASCII files to dBASE and then attached as attributes to corresponding section records in the appropriate state ARC/INFO PLSS digital files. The map was processed with ARC/INFO GIS version 7.0.2 on a Sun Sparc workstation using SUN OS 4.1.3. Data are considered accurate for geographic representations of the original map for the purposes of regional assessments at a scale of 1:100,000 or smaller.

Obtaining Digital Data

The digital files which were used to make the mining claim density map are available as ARC/INFO GIS export format and associated data files. All data files and map images are maintained in the Albers Equal Area projection to facilitate use (See Appendix B). Copies of the digital data can be downloaded as digital files from the USGS public access World Wide Web site on the Internet:

URL = http://wrgis.wr.usgs.gov/docs/geologic/northwest_region/ofr96-737.html

or Anonymous FTP from:

wrgis.wr.usgs.gov

from the directory: **[pub/geologic/northwest_region/misc/ofr96-737](http://wrgis.wr.usgs.gov/docs/geologic/northwest_region/misc/ofr96-737)**

These Internet sites contain the mining claim density for the Pacific Northwest in a GIS coverage in ARC/INFO export file format as well as the associated data files and ARC/INFO macro program that was used to plot the map. Use of these data requires a GIS that is capable of reading ARC/INFO export formatted files and a computer capable of reading UNIX ASCII files. To use these files on a DOS computer, they must be put through a UNIX-to-DOS filter.

Obtaining Paper Maps

Paper copies of this map are not available from the USGS at this time. However, a 1:1,750,000-scale paper copy of the map can be made as follows:

1. Download the digital version of the complete map from the USGS public access World Wide Web site on the Internet. The URL is:

http://wrgis.wr.usgs.gov/docs/geologic/northwest_region/ofr96-737.html

or by Anonymous FTP from:

wrgis.wr.usgs.gov

in the directory: **[pub/geologic/northwest_region/misc/ofr96-737](http://wrgis.wr.usgs.gov/docs/geologic/northwest_region/misc/ofr96-737)**

These Internet sites contain a file, **nw_mincl.hp**, which is in HPGL2 graphics language.

2. This file can be plotted by any large-format graphics plotter which can interpret the HPGL2 language. The finished plot is 26 by 30 inches.

Paper copies of the map can also be created by obtaining one of the versions of the digital files as described above, and then creating a plot file in a GIS.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The mining claim density map presented here was produced from digital mining claim recordation files obtained from BLM sources that were used to attribute digital versions of existing state PLSS maps. Descriptions of the mining claim attributes used to produce the mining claim density maps are presented in tabular form in Appendix A . A GIS may be used to make other claim density maps by selecting different attributes, for example density of only "placer" claims or density of "open lode" claims. This and other new maps constructed by this method are derivative maps that can be used to answer focused questions. Derivative maps produced from state scale mining claim density maps are an appropriate first step to providing a regional context for land management decisions. Mining claim density information is a potential tool to focus further mineral studies and should be part of the basis for land management decisions.

REFERENCES CITED

Campbell, Harry W., 1996, Procedure from making a mining claim density map from BLM claim recordation digital data: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 96-736, 13 p.

APPENDIX A: GIS Map Attributes

The mining claim density GIS coverage "nw_mc.e00" contains the polygon attributes listed in the following table:

ITEM NAME	START COLUMN	ITEM LENGTH	ATTRIBUTE DESCRIPTION
STATE	17	2	State
MTRS	19	18	Meridian, Township, Range, Section
MER	37	3	Meridian
TNP	40	5	Township
NS	45	1	North or South of base line
RNG	46	5	Range
EW	51	1	East or West of base line
SEC	52	3	Section
NOLC	55	4	Number of Open Lode Claims
NOPC	59	4	Number of Open Placer Claims
NOMC	63	4	Number of Open Mill site Claims
NOTC	67	4	Number of Open Tunnel Claims
TOC	71	4	Total number of Open Claims in a section
NCLC	75	4	Number of Closed Lode Claims
NCPC	79	4	Number of Closed Placer Claims
NCMC	83	4	Number of Closed Mill site Claims
NCTC	87	4	Number of Closed Tunnel Claims
TCC	91	4	Total number of Closed Claims in a section
TC	95	4	Total number of Claims of all kinds

The plate accompanying this report was produced by selecting and plotting the polygon attribute labeled "TC" in the table above. A mining claim is considered to be closed when the claim is relinquished or a formal BLM decision declaring the mining claim null and void has been issued and the appeal period has expired. All other mining claims filed with BLM are considered to be open.

APPENDIX B: Detailed Metadata

Metadata for mining claim density GIS coverage "nw_mc.e00" with base scale of 1:100,000 from State PLSS maps is as follows:

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION:

CITATION

Originator: U.S. Bureau of Mines (data were transferred to U.S. Geological Survey in February 1996)

Publication Date: 1996

Title: Mining claim density for Federal lands in the Pacific Northwest.

Geospatial Data Presentation Form: map

PUBLICATION INFORMATION:

Publisher: U.S. Geological Survey

Online Linkage: <http://wrgis.wr.usgs.gov/docs/geologic/northwest/region/ofr96-737.html>

DESCRIPTION

Abstract: Mining claim density on Federal lands in the Pacific Northwest; includes the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Purpose: Display and analysis of digital mining claim density data for the Pacific Northwest.

TIME PERIOD OF CONTENT

Time Period Information

Range of Dates and Times

Beginning Date: 01/01/1976

Ending Date: 09/01/1994

Status

Progress: Complete

Maintenance and Update Frequency: Unknown

KEY WORDS:

Theme

Theme Keyword: Mining claim density

Place

Place Keyword: Pacific Northwest

Place Keyword: Washington

Place Keyword: Idaho

Place Keyword: Oregon

Place Keyword: US

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS: None

Use Constraints: Not for use at scales larger than 1:100,000. Not for accurate determination of section corner or property line locations.

Native Data Set Environment: ARC/INFO version 7.0.2, SunOS version 4.1.3

DATA QUALITY INFORMATION:

Attribute Accuracy Report: No errors in claim density numbers were found when they were spot-checked for selected individual sections, but not every section was checked.

Completeness Report: Data set is complete for Federal lands in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Horizontal Positional Accuracy Report: Approximate horizontal accuracy is about 50 meters, assuming source data meets National Map Accuracy Standards.

Vertical Positional Accuracy Report: NONE (not applicable)

LINEAGE

SOURCE INFORMATION

Originator: U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,00-scale topographic maps; mining claim data from

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Publication Date: 01/01/1976 and later

Title: BLM Mineral Claim Recordation System database (cumulative)

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Publication Place: Denver, CO

Publisher: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Source Scale Denominator: N/A

Type of Source Media: 9-track digital magnetic tape

SOURCE TIME PERIOD OF CONTENT

Beginning Date: 01/01/1975

Ending Date: 09/01/1994

Source Citation Abbreviation: mining claim density

Source Contribution: All of the coordinates were collected from these maps.

SPATIAL DATA ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

SPATIAL DOMAIN

Bounding Coordinates

West Bounding Coordinate: -125.00000°

East Bounding Coordinate: -111.00000°

North Bounding Coordinate: 49.00000°

South Bounding Coordinate: 42.00000°

Direct Spatial Reference Method: Vector

POINT AND VECTOR OBJECT INFORMATION

Number of Arcs: 69,038

Number of Polygons: 23,436

Number of Nodes: 47,690

Number of Tics: 141

Number of Arc Segments: 78,736

Number of Polygon Labels: 22,966

SPATIAL REFERENCE INFORMATION

HORIZONTAL COORDINATE SYSTEM DEFINITION

Map Projection Name: Albers Equal Area

First Standard Parallel: 43° 00' 00"

Second Standard Parallel: 48° 00' 00"

Longitude of Central Meridian: -117° 00' 00"

Latitude of Projection Origin: 41° 00' 00"

False Easting: 700000

False Northing: 0.0

Planar Distance Units: meters

GEODETTIC MODEL

Horizontal Datum Name: Clarke 1866 spheroid

ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION:

Entity Type Definition: Polygon Attribute Table

Attribute Label: STATE

Attribute Definition: State code

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION

ID Idaho
OR Oregon
WA Washington

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: MTRS

Attribute Definition: Meridian, Township, Range, Section composite from PLSS grid.

This is a redefined item to create a unique ID for each section. Examples:

"020 37.0N 31.0W 3" is Meridian 020 Township 37 North, Range 31 West, section 3.

Unrepresentable Domain: Character field

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: TNP

Attribute Definition: Township Number of PLSS grid

Range Domain

Range Domain Minimum: 1

Range Domain Maximum: 96

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: NS

Attribute Definition: Township North or South designation

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION

N Township North of the Base Line
S Township South of the Base Line

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: RNG

Attribute Definition: Range Number of PLSS grid

Range Domain

Range Domain Minimum: 1

Range Domain Maximum: 107

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: EW

Attribute Definition: Range East or West Designation

ENUMERATED DOMAIN VALUE DEFINITION

E Range East of the given meridian
W Range West of the given meridian

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

Attribute Label: SEC

Attribute Definition: Section Number of PLSS grid

Range Domain

Range Domain Minimum: 1

Range Domain Maximum: 36

Beginning Date of Attribute Values: 03/24/1996

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**Metadata Reference Information:****Metadata Date:** 1996**Metadata Contact:** Woody Campbell
West 904 Riverside Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-1087
509-353-2366
wcampbel@galileo.wr.usgs.gov